

KAU'MA, YEMEN

Nasser's War

From a letter to the London *Times* written by Brigadier D. Smiley, who has been in the Royalist-held areas of Yemen most of the summer: "The entire mountainous region of the Northern and Central Yemen is firmly held by Royalist forces. The Egyptians hold a few main towns in the valleys, and have spasmodic use of the main roads which are continually cut and ambushed by the Royalists. . . . The UN only recognizes the Republican Government

Abroad

of General Sallal. Their representatives have accordingly not been authorized to make contact with the Royalist authorities. As a result they have not visited any of the areas that have suffered daily bombings from the Egyptians. During the four weeks I spent in those areas there was only one day when I, personally, did not see a bombing attack. Most of the attacks were directed against villages and not military positions. I investigated the bombs that fell in Kau'ma, which resulted in the death of a number of children. I collected several fragments of these bombs, which are undoubtedly poisonous, and handed them with a report on my findings to the UN representatives in Jeddah. . . . As far as I could see the Saudis have observed their side of the agreement, not to supply arms to the Imam's forces. Will the Egyptians keep their [pledge] to leave Yemen? From experience of guerrilla warfare in Abyssinia and Albania and after three years as Commander-in-Chief of the Sultan of Muscat's Army, my own judgment is that in a free and fair fight the Royalist forces would occupy Sana within a week."

RANGOON

People's Democracy

General Ne Win, Burma's ruler since the coup of March 1962, has told the National United Front (the organization of Burma's legal Communists) that the national objective is a socialist "people's democracy," and *not* a parliamentary democracy. Ne Win's Revolutionary Council and the NUF work closely together in both administration and program. At the same time, Ne Win has offered amnesty to, and begun negotiations with, both the White Flag and the Red Flag groups of underground Communists, as well as the dissidents in the Shan and other northern states. (The Red Flags, taking Trotsky as their prophet, have the distinction of regarding both Khrushchev and Mao as " betrayers of the Revolution.") Meanwhile the socialization of banks, export houses, large merchandisers and industries, continues.

LONDON

Whose Welfare?

The results of an elaborate opinion survey conducted this spring by the Institute of Economic Affairs have astonished and disconcerted most observers. The survey reveals

that a majority of persons at all social levels "would be interested" (as the *Manchester Guardian* summarizes) "in contracting out of state welfare services." The report is considered all the more striking because most of the heads of household interviewed were Labor Party supporters. It finds among all groups a readiness to "do-it-themselves" if relieved of the taxes and compulsory payments required by universal state welfare. The majority disliking the universal system is about evenly divided between those who think state welfare should be restricted to persons in special need and those who want present services (education, health, pensions, etc.) continued but individuals allowed to withdraw in favor of private arrangements.



Punch

"The usual mumbo-jumbo about a Pharaoh's curse."

ROME

Parioli Reds

As in most countries outside the Communist sphere, a "Chinese tendency" has developed in Italy. *Edizione Oriente*, a pro-Chinese publisher in Milan, is distributing the Chinese party's literature, especially its attacks on the staunchly pro-Moscow Togliatti. There are organized pro-Chinese groups in Perugia, Padua and Rome as well as Milan, and a more or less anti-Khrushchev faction, headed by Pietro Ingrao, inside the Party. As usual in this sort of political division, the super-radical ("adventurous," "sectarian") line finds most of its sympathizers among intellectuals, students, writers and dilettantes—including some unaffiliated radicals and some members of Nenni's party—rather than among the workers, peasants and activists of the Party ranks. In Rome the pro-Chinese are called "Parioli Reds" (roughly equivalent to "Park Avenue Pinks"—Parioli is Rome's expensive residential district). In the Italian as in most other pro-Chinese tendencies, there is a notable revival of interest in Leon Trotsky; in fact, along with Mao and Castro, it is Trotsky rather than Stalin who completes the top triumvirate.

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